I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters — but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy — a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system — ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Remember the airwaves belong to the people. Licenses to make money were issued in exchange for a commitment to keep the public informed (spin does not count). How the current system is failing to do this is exemplified by the lack of adequate coverage of the Democratic National Convention, where only three hours was devoted to an event which was of Great concern to the entire nation demonstrating how these large media corporations fail to keep their commitment to the public interest.